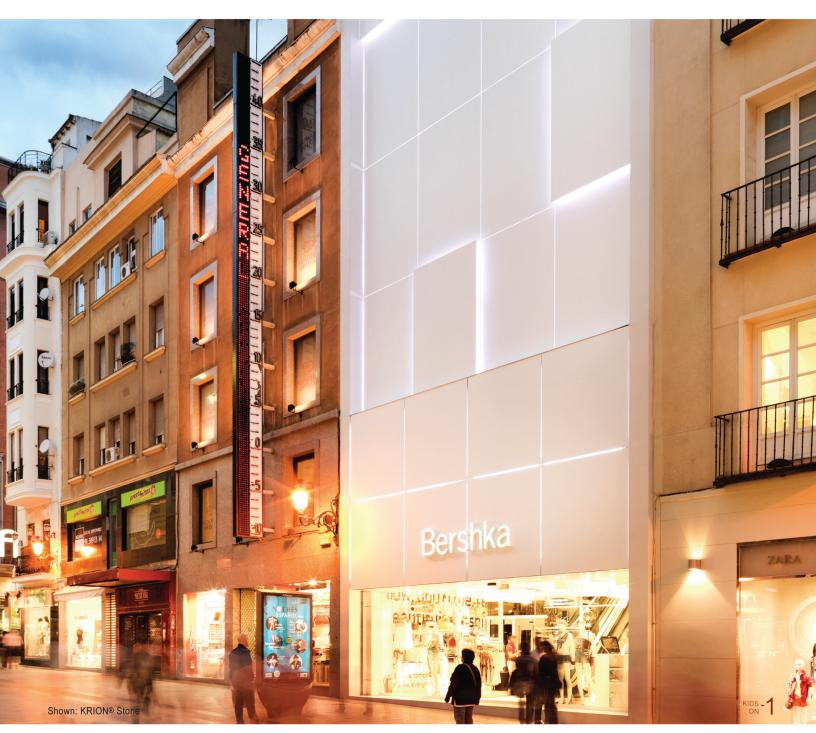


# **PORCELANOSA®**



### **VENTILATED FACADES**

















# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF BUILDING LEGACY HOMES AND LASTING RELATIONSHIPS.

Thanks to all of our wonderful clients and their amazing architects. We at Horizon Builders are grateful for the opportunity to gain your trust and confidence to do such incredible work over the past 30 years. First and foremost, we value lasting relationships, and we are firmly committed to executing your vision for architect-designed homes and custom renovations.

Since 1982... Extreme Quality. Exceptional Service.



WAY | Functional Modularity by Snaidero Design

As awarded by The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design.





KITCHENS + DESIGN. Made in Italy.

1.877.762.4337 | www.snaidero-usa.com

**Studio Snaidero DC** | 3409 M Street NW | Washington, DC 20007 202.484.8066

Snaidero USA offers eco-friendly products that qualify towards LEED certification.





View of "In Living Color," the nickname for 625 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, by Suzane Reatig Architecture.

Photo © Alan Karchmer

### ARCHITECTURE (

Vol. 15, No. 2

ArchitectureDC is a registered trademark of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects 421 7th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20004

phone: 202.347.9403 fax: 202.347.9408

www.aiadc.com

Mary Fitch, AICP, Hon. AIA / Publisher G. Martin Moeller, Jr., Assoc. AIA / Editor James B. Hicks III / Art Director Jody Cranford / Advertising

### AIA/DC 2013 Officers

David Haresign, FAIA / President Sean Nohelty, AIA / Vice President Steven White, AIA / Treasurer Phil Wessell, AIA / Secretary Jon Penndorf, AIA / Past President

### AIA/DC Staff

Mary Fitch, AICP, Hon. AIA / Executive Director Melody Harrison / Membership Beth Judy / Foundation Programs Tasiyiwa Mapondera / Education Programs Manager Michael Andrade / Operations Manager Katie Spencer / Public Programs & Communication Laura Headrick / Special Events Coordinator Gallery Assistants: Ryan Arnold, Scott Clowney, Georgina Hain, Bradley Johnson

### Subscription Information

Subscription to ARCHITECTUREDC is free to the public. Subscribe online at www.aiadc.com

### Advertising Information

Please contact Jody Cranford at Media Sales at 800-818-0289 or jcranford@aiadc.com

# ARCHITECTURE Model Homes: Residential Design Awards for 2013



Summer 2013







13

32

### **WELCOME**

5 We're Golden! by Mary Fitch, AICP, Hon. AIA

### IN THE SIGAL GALLERY AT DAC

- **Thought-Provoking Concepts**
- WASHINGTONIAN RESIDENTIAL DESIGN AWARDS
- 12 City (Part 1): Three Renovations Bring Individual Residences Up to Date by Ronald O'Rourke
- 22 City (Part 2): Two New Multi-Family Residences Provide Stylish Urban Living by Ronald O'Rourke

- 30 Suburbs: Houses Amidst the Trees by G. Martin Moeller, Jr., Assoc. AIA
- 40 Country: Building on History by Steven K. Dickens, AIA, LEED AP
- 44 Backyard: Creating Private Oases by Denise Liebowitz
- 48 Shore: Living on the Waterfront by Steven K. Dickens, AIA, LEED AP
- 54 Elements: The Parts that Make the Whole by Denise Liebowitz

ON THE COVER: Bathroom of the See-Through House, by KUBE Architecture. Photo © Greg Powers Photography

TOGO chair by Michel Ducaroy
800-BY-ROSET
ligne-roset-usa.com

to Mark au Umpression.



### WE'RE GOLDEN



Regular readers of ARCHITECTUREDC know that spring is the time for our annual residential design competition. This year, we were privileged to have Jane Frederick, FAIA, Harry Kendall, AIA, and Dan Wheeler, FAIA, as our jury. Prior to judging the submissions, they were kind enough to give a presentation at the District Architecture Center (DAC) on their own work. It was amazing how different in style, yet similar in basic intent,

many of their projects were.

This year's competition featured about one-third more entries than last year's, and included entries from architects who haven't submitted projects in a while—possible signs of a strengthening home design and construction market. As always, the jurors came from out of town, and reviewed the entries without knowing who did them.



# Velcome!

The 15 projects selected for awards show design solutions in a variety of residential settings. Accordingly, we've organized the articles covering these projects under the headers of City, Suburb, Country, and Shore, with additional articles for Backyard projects and Elements within larger projects. Whatever your potential residential design needs, you might find a model project in these pages.

If you're interested in learning more about architecture, I strongly recommend our "25 Architects" Series. You'll not only see lots of interesting projects, but also learn the inside stories behind them. Please log on to our calendar at aiadc.com/calendar for a complete listing.

Our website also includes some helpful information about hiring an architect. Just click on the directory and go to the "for clients" page, which will help you get started. We're here to help you, so don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

We're very pleased to announce that the U.S. Green Building Council has just certified DAC for LEED Gold status, which is a very high metric for sustainable design and operation within an existing building. Achieving LEED Gold isn't easy, so we take some pride in this achievement, as does the firm that designed DAC, Hickok Cole Architects.

DAC this May has been one of the busier places in Washington, which is saying a lot, given the level of activity in the city at this time of year. In addition to exhibitions in the SIGAL Gallery, people are discovering that DAC, whose first-rate meeting facilities are available for rent, is a great place to hold conferences, business meetings, classes, lectures, parties, fashion shows, and even weddings! If you're interested in using DAC for an event you're planning, please contact Laura Headrick at lheadrick@aiadc.com

As always, please enjoy this issue, and feel free to contact me with your questions and comments.

Mary Fitch, AICP, Hon. AIA Publisher mfitch@aiadc.com

### **Contributors**

Steven K. Dickens, AIA, LEED AP ("Country" and "Shore") is an associate with Eric Colbert & Associates.

Denise Liebowitz ("Backyard" and "Elements"), formerly with the National Capital Planning Commission, is a frequent contributor to ARCHITECTUREDC.

G. Martin Moeller, Jr., Assoc. AIA ("Suburbs") is an independent curator and writer, as well as senior curator at the National Building Museum. He is the editor of ARCHITECTUREDC.

Ronald O'Rourke ("City," Parts 1 and 2) is a regular contributor to ARCHITECTUREDC. His father, Jack O'Rourke, was an architect in San Francisco for more than four decades.

### Additional Credit

For the William O. Lockridge/Bellevue Library featured in the Spring 2013 issue of ARCHITECTUREDC, the owner's representative was JAIR LYNCH Development Partners.

# Langley Hill, McLean, VA. by McInturff Architects



**Ron Mangas, Jr.** is known amongst his colleagues and peers for his knowledge of modern American architecture.

His understanding of what comprises the modernist ethos allows him to represent his clients in a way that is unique in the Washington D.C. markets.



TTR



RON MANGAS, JR. 703.298.2564 | ContemporaryListings.com

TTR Sotheby's International Realty | 1206 30th St NW, Washington, DC 20007

 $\triangleright$ 

**G** 

П

Z





KGD Architecture—Civic Threshold

# In the SIGAL Gallery at DAC

# Thought-Provoking Concepts

Concepts: The AIA | DC Awards for Unbuilt Architecture displays the winning entries of 2013 Washington UNBUILT Awards program, an annual competition that recognizes excellence in both theoretical projects and unbuilt commissioned projects. The program is open to registered architects, landscape architects, planners, interior designers, associate architects, and students in the Washington metropolitan area.

The Washington UNBUILT Awards program was created in 2009 and was judged this year by:

**Aki Ishida**, Landscape Architect, Charlottesville, Virginia **Mirka Benes**, University of Texas, Austin, Texas **Peter Pelsinski**, Span Architects, New York, New York

Our energetic jury reviewed 143 projects, selecting nine for awards. The winners range in size and scale from a spectacular natatorium in Southwest Washington to an office building of the future—but all of them push the envelope. The exhibition will be on view until July 13, 2013.

The Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA | DC) gratefully acknowledges the participation of our jurors and the award winners in the development of this exhibition, which is organized by AIA | DC and made possible by the generous support of ABC Imaging, Inc.



# Is repainting making you crazy?

Contact KEIM and find out how to stop the insanity.









Interior Silicate paints for lasting beauty

Guaranteed long life without fading, peeling, or blistering.

Natural breathing walls: KEIM's unique silicate structure allows moisture to leave the wall system as vapor, working with nature to keep walls dry.

KEIM's high-performance silicate paints & coatings make healthier working & living spaces.



Exterior Silicate paints for appealing appearance and long life

### Dependable, Non-fading, Durability, & Beauty

KEIM's new innovative high-performance paints; Ecosil-ME for interior and Soldalit-ME for exterior are self-cleaning and even eat smog helping to clean the air we breath.

KEIM paints will not fade. KEIM only uses natural inorganic mineral pigments that are UV stable and will not fade. "We guarantee it."

KEIM's silicate paints, stains, and coatings form permanent bonds with the surface. By using a special silicate binder KEIM paints penetrate the substrate and in a chemical reaction creates permanent bonds. KEIM's very low to no VOC's make it possible to paint, work and live in the same space.

KEIM mineral paints do not attract dirt, surfaces stay clean.

Safety, when exposed to fire KEIM paints do not burn, smoke, or give off poisonous toxins. Lives can be saved.

What is new with KEIM? Visit us at www.KEIM.com to learn more about KEIM's photocatalytic self-cleaning paints.

the original silicate coating since 1878

# **KEIM MINERAL COATINGS** of America, Inc.

10615 Texland Blvd # 600 Charlotte, NC 28273



The Jacobsen Collection distills a lifetime of prestige and accomplishment in international architecture and design. Selected from commissions around the world, The Collection embraces the Architects' boundless taste, attention to detail, and desire for perfection.

For the first time, the Jacobsen Collection is made available to a discerning public exclusively through ARCHER, Washington DC.

www.archermodern.com

## Jacobsen Architecture

HUGH NEWELL JACOBSEN / SIMON JACOBSEN

EXTENDO top hung frameless telescoping glass door system. Glass panels move simultaneously, actuated by the lead door.



Maximize interiors. Create new spaces within. Eliminate boundaries. Bring light and architecture together in the most ingenious ways. This is what Klein frameless sliding door systems let you do. Klein also brings your entire project together, working closely with you and our Klein dealers to ensure complete satisfaction-from initial design and system selection through prompt delivery and installation. Klein is European design, in distribution across North America. Discover more imaginative environments at:

klein-usa.com



KLEIN USA, Inc. 833 Magnolia Ave. Elizabeth, NJ 07201 888-KLEIN US 908.994.1118 Fax: 908.994.1119 klein@klein-usa.com



Oyster House, Lottsburg VA NanaWall Aluminum Framed Thermally Broken Folding System SL70 with NanaScreens Architect: Dale Overmyer Architects

"The NanaWall achieves perfectly the goal between the inside and outside, removing any barrier between people and the outside landscape. Being on the water, the performance and long-term durability is of utmost importance as the design feature of the façade is the focal point. The additional benefit of the screen component allows for occupant comfort during the summer.

—Dale Overmyer, Architect

### For more information, please contact:

Mark Briggs Mark@RandallBoardman.com 301 271 1117





### NanaWall: The Architect's Choice in Opening Glass Walls

- Benefit from a single-source product built as a complete system of unparalleled quality with superior long-term weather performance.
- Choose from over 20 different systems with hundreds of options for configurations, inward or outward openings, materials, glazing, and finishes. NanaScreen collapsible insect screen is also available.
- Contact the NanaWall dedicated architectural support team for concept to completion evaluations and design guidance.







Photo © Greg Powers Photograph

# Three Renovations Bring Individual Residences Up to Date

by Ronald O'Rourke

With the District's population recently growing by more than a 1,000 per month, it's not surprising that several of the awards in this year's residential design competition went to projects located in the heart of the city. Our coverage of the in-town winners is broken into two parts: This article covers three renovated individual residences, while the next looks at two new multi-family projects.

### See-Through House

When asked to describe what they do, architects sometimes say that their work is less a matter of penciling in walls and selecting building materials than it is of manipulating space and light. To a non-architect, that answer can sound a little strange—until you see a project like the See-Through House by **KUBE Architecture**, which transformed a small, dark row house in the District's Foggy Bottom area into an open, sun-drenched modern residence.

The clients for the project—a doctor and his wife—moved to the row house to be close to his hospital, and hired KUBE to do a complete interior renovation. "They came from a house in the middle of an open field in New Jersey that had a lot of glass and natural light," said architect **Richard Loosle-Ortega**, one of two principals at KUBE. "Their mandate was to turn this row house, with its limited sun exposures, into an equally light-filled residence."

Many clients nowadays want a light-filled home, and achieving that in one of the District's typically narrow row houses is a frequent challenge for local architects. KUBE's design employs several of the measures often used by architects for achieving that goal, including maximizing rear windows, adding a rooftop skylight, removing interior walls, inserting glass partitions, and installing a stairway with open risers. But the See-Through House



Photo © Greg Powers Photography



Interior of the See-Through House before renovation.

Photo courtesy of KUBE Architecture

Project: See-Through House, Washington, DC

Architects: KUBE Architecture; Janet Bloomberg, AIA,

and Richard Loosle-Ortega, principals
Contractor: Think Make Build
Custom Millwork: Potomac Woodwork
Decorative Steel: Gutierrez Studios

employs an extra feature not commonly incorporated into residential projects.

To further transmit light into the house's core without sacrificing any of its limited floor space, the architects used clear glass floor panels, each measuring three feet by twelve feet (the same dimensions as the skylight), to create a vertical shaft of light running down through the house's center, from the skylight to the basement. In addition to transmitting light, the glass panels help link the house's floors to one another while also playing with traditional notions of domestic privacy—a person in the living room can look up through the panels to see someone taking a shower on the top floor.

"The owners were very excited about the idea of the glass plates and embraced it immediately," Loosle-Ortega said. "I had originally assumed the use of frosted glass plates at each floor, but the owners pushed the concept further and opted for clear glass at the two living levels, with frosted glass only into the basement level." The glass panels are rimmed with LED lights to preserve the notion of the vertical shaft at night.

The design is "a tapestry of solids and voids that define fully functional floor plates and allow light and views to run vertically and unobstructed through the whole house," Loosle-Ortega added. "There's very little need for artificial light sources, and with simple ceiling fans and natural cross-ventilation, air moves freely through the space, requiring very little mechanical ventilation."

Color is another key part of the design. "KUBE likes to use color, and the stair wall is usually the one location in the house that ties all levels together," said **Janet Bloomberg**, **AIA**, KUBE's other principal. "We selected blue for the stair wall because it was the clients' preferred color."

Elsewhere in the house, "we used very light grays and whites to emphasize light, but resorted to dark bamboo floors on the main living level to formalize it a bit more," Bloomberg added. "The other two levels have light bamboo floors. We wanted the stair railings to be as light as possible, so we used steel pickets and handrails with eight-inch spacing rather than the usual four-inch spacing, and painted it white." Although it wasn't intended, the light-filled, predominantly white-and-blue interior gives the house a somewhat Mediterranean feel—a bit of Santorini in Foggy Bottom.

The slightly edgy modernism of the See-Through House isn't just for clients in their 30s or 40s. "One would think that this very modern home was designed for a young couple," Loosle-Ortega said, "but the owners are actually a progressive couple in their 60s."

"I like the fact that the house combines a traditional envelope with a forward-thinking modern interior," he added. "It allows the past to move into the future."



Rear of the house before renovation

Photo courtesy of John Michael Day

### The Night Watchman's House

The Night Watchman's House project consisted of a renovation and addition of new space to the rear of a historic row house on the south side of Capitol Hill, not far from Eastern Market, the Marine Barracks, and the Washington Navy Yard. The project was designed by John Michael Day, AIA, LEED BD+C. He and his wife, interior designer Tama Duffy Day, FASID, FIIDA, LEED AP, own the residence, which they call the Night Watchman in honor of an Irish immigrant who lived there in the 1860s and worked as a night watchman at the Navy Yard.

"The project began with constructing an energy-efficient shell and mechanical system," John Michael Day said. "Large southfacing windows and a skylight bring sunlight and views into all rooms. The existing living and dining room spaces represent historic context that is now juxtaposed with modern furnishings. The new kitchen engages the garden, and the previously small rooms of the existing second story were opened into a loft space with sleeping, library, and studio zones."

The house incorporates a number of sustainable design features, including an innovative (for Washington) exterior blind on the south-facing rear elevation that controls heat gain more efficiently than an interior blind and automatically retracts if the wind blows too hard. The house was previously featured in ARCHITECTUREDC—for more details, see pages 20-21 of the Fall 2012 issue.

Project: The Night Watchman, Washington, DC

Architect: John Michael Day, AIA, LEED BD+C

Contractor: **Greenspur Inc.**Engineers: **Linton Engineering** 





Photo  $\ @$  Hoachlander Davis Photography

### **Apartment One**

To create a new residence for herself, **Suman Sorg**, **FAIA**, renovated a grandly scaled but dilapidated apartment in a 1906 Beaux Artsstyle apartment building located on Massachusetts Avenue, NW, in the District's Embassy Row area. The building includes a single, full-floor, multi-bedroom apartment on each of its four upper levels.

Sorg's design for the project involved a minimally intrusive restoration of the apartment's dining, living, and sitting rooms facing Massachusetts Avenue to the south, and the creation of modern kitchen and bath spaces and a new painting studio to the rear. (In addition to being the principal and owner of her architecture firm, Sorg and Associates, Sorg works as a large-scale oil painter, and much of the art displayed on the apartment's walls is hers.)

The apartment's new kitchen and bathrooms are bright-white, clean-lined spaces that take maximum advantage of the natural light that reaches them. White Carrara marble is used for the countertop in the kitchen and the floors in the bathrooms. Sorg opened up the kitchen by removing some partitions, and used mirrors in the room to increase the space's sense of light. The adjoining butler's pantry was converted into a laundry room.

The apartment's original master bedroom was located in the rear; Sorg's design moved it to the front by converting a lightly enclosed porch facing Massachusetts Avenue into the new master bedroom and bath.

The new painting studio is located on the apartment's northern end, where it receives an art-friendly gentle northern light. The studio and its adjoining bathroom were created by merging three small bedrooms originally designed for household servants. The studio's flooring, like the kitchen's, is new pine; original oak and parquet floors elsewhere in the apartment were retained and refinished.

The classically designed public rooms along Massachusetts Avenue were restored but otherwise not changed. They are painted in a warm taupe consistent with tones often found in historic rooms of this kind.

Following the renovation, an apartment that was originally designed to support a gracious, early 20th-century lifestyle, but which had fallen into disrepair, has been brought back life to support an equally gracious, but quite different, 21st-century lifestyle. The project is a case study in how to combine traditional and modern design elements in a seemingly effortless but in fact well-considered manner.



Master bathroom of Apartment One.

Photo  $\ \ \, \mathbb C$  Hoachlander Davis Photography

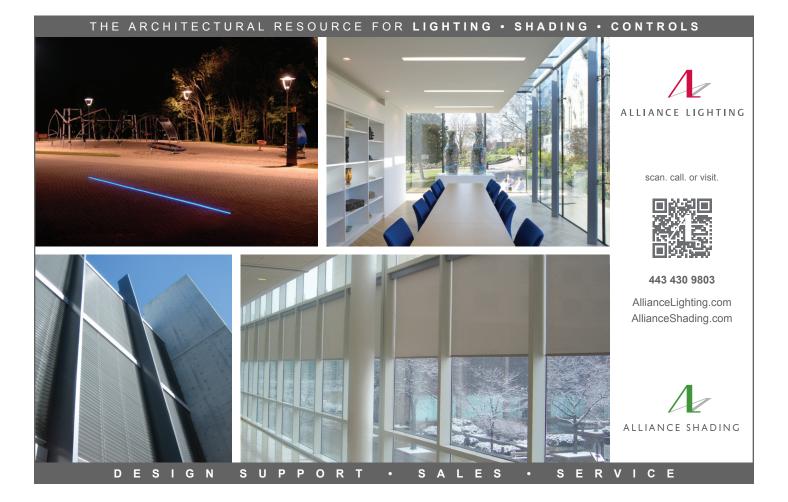


### ALAN KARCHMER

### ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHER



SANTIAGO CALATRAVA ARCHITECT | PEACE BRIDGE. CALGARY | PHOTOGRAPHED FOR THE ARCHITECT | WWW.ALANKARCHMER.COM | 202.244.7511



dream for it. aspire for vish for it. yearn for it. focu on it. obsess about it. org nize it. plan it. talk about or it. collaborate on it. fanta analyze it. critique it. perfe ct it. refine it. source it. bu get for it. schedule it. mod it. think**makebuild** it. gl bend it. nail it. paint it. fal icate it. finish it. love it.

THINKMAKEBUILD.COM

We provide professional, high-end 3d architectural rendering, walkthrough animation & 3d outsourcing services.

Send Us your 2d sketches, Autocad dwg, 3d Revit, Sketchup files and we will convert them to stunning 3d renderings and animations. High quality, Excellent communications with more than 10 years experience doing 3d!



# FAST

We work hard and fast for you. One week turnaround time on typical projects. 24 hour rush job available upon request.



Let Us be your 3d studio and we will impress your clients. More than 300 jobs done, more than 100 clients served with positive reviews.



# LOCAL

We visit you to discuss projects and even bring our fast workstations in your office for critical projects.

3 D STOR V STUDIO ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING AND COMPUTER GRAPHICS SERVICES VISCHILECTURAL RENDERING AND COMBINER GRAPHICS SERVICES VISCHILECTURAL RENDERING VID COMBINER GRAPHICS SERVICES

Get started now! Call 571.243.0236

www.3dstormstudio.con



# KEAST&HOOD CO.

**Structural Engineers** 

1350 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 412 Washington, DC 20036 202.223.1941



### Celebrating 60 Years of Structural Engineering: 1953-2013

Private Residence, Washington, DC Merle Thorpe Architects







New Construction • Renovation • Addition • Adaptive Reuse • Historic Preservation • Masonry Stabilization • Structural Intervention

### dariushWATERCOLORS

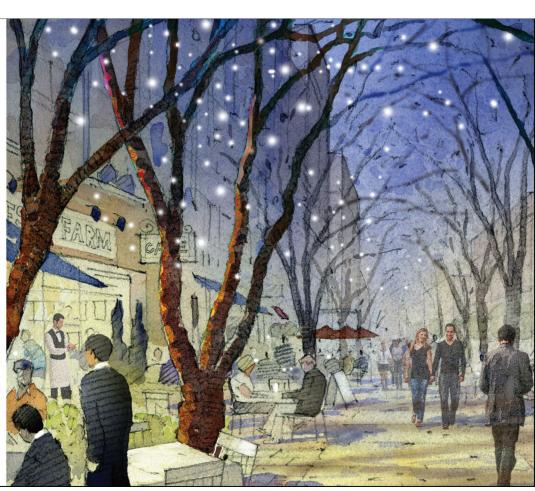
Washington, DC 202.887.1777

serving architects and developers since 1985

- hand painted watercolors
- hybrids
- CG architectural visualization
- fast, reliable, local

In addition to being a leader in watercolor illustrations, we have assembled a team of CG archviz experts to give you a choice of computer generated, photorealistic images for your projects. Visit our web site for further information.

www.dariushwatercolors.com





Brown Jordan Outdoor Kitchens completes your outdoor living space by combining Brown Jordan furniture with a wide-range of cooking and entertaining possibilities that rival interior kitchens. Utilizing European-style frameless cabinetry of

stainless steel construction, kitchens can fit any footprint or take on any shape the homeowner desires. Add a touch of individuality by selecting a door style ...or an exclusive Brown Jordan powder coat finish that matches your furniture.

# CALL US TOLL FREE: 855.839.5063 BROWN JORDAN®

BROWN JORDAN is a registered trademark of Brown Jordan International, Inc. and is used under license to CT Acquisitions, LLC.





## Two New Multi-Family Residences Provide Stylish Urban Living

by Ronald O'Rourke

Washington is renowned for its many fine apartment buildings, ranging from ornate beauties built in the early 20th century to sleek modernist structures built in subsequent decades. With the city's recent resurgence in population, a new wave of rental apartment and condominium construction is now taking place, adding to the city's stock of multi-family buildings. Below are two new projects that are helping to propel the District's long tradition of excellent apartment building design into the new century.

### The Lacey

The Lacey, a 26-unit condominium building, is located at 2250 11th Street, NW, on the site of a former parking lot for the Florida Avenue Grill, an institution among Washington restaurants. The location is close to Howard University and a few blocks north of the U Street Metro Station. The new building is named for Lacey C. Wilson, Sr., who founded the restaurant along with Bertha Wilson in 1944, and for their son Lacey C. Wilson, Jr.

The project's developers hired **Division 1 Architects** to design a forward-looking landmark building that engages the street and expresses optimism for the neighborhood's future. The principals

in charge of the project were Ali R. Honarkar and Mustafa Ali Nouri, AIA.

Division 1's design for the project employs the firm's characteristic muscular and somewhat industrial style of modernism. The four-level, glass, steel, and concrete building consists of two rectangular volumes, one set on top of the other, that enclose units ranging in size from 500-square-foot studios to 1,750-square-foot, two-bedroom units. The building includes a second-floor terrace, a communal roof deck, and private roof decks for the top-floor units. All 26 units have balconies, and some additionally have their own terraces or courtyards.



Interior of an apartment at the Lacey.

Photo © Debi Fox, Debi Fox Photography

**Project:** The Lacey, Washington, DC

Architect: Division 1; Ali R. Honarkar and Mustafa Ali Nouri, AlA, principals; Jin Yong Kim, Jeff Roberson, and Christopher F. Brown, AIA, project team

Lighting Designers: Potomac Lighting Structural Engineers: Radwan Associates

Development Consultants: Bello, Bello and Associates



The Lacey, with the projecting exterior stair visible at left.

Photo © Debi Fox, Debi Fox Photography

The four duplex units at the street level feature individual entry stairs and small front yards, echoing the rhythm of nearby row houses. The upper volume's façade presents an irregular arrangement of solids (window panels) and voids (recessed balconies). The building's rear elevation is a mostly glass wall punctuated by a horizontal concrete frame and a vertical steel box. A steel framework enclosing a stair projects out beyond one end of the building, adding a jolt of energy to the design.

The upper volume is divided along its length by a three-level corridor/atrium. As noted in a previous issue of ARCHITECTUREDC that briefly discussed the Lacey (see page 67 of the Fall 2012 issue), the corridor/atrium serves as an internal street that encourages interaction among the building's residents. Access to units from this central space is accomplished with staggered landings that maximize the building's sense of openness.

The Lacey's interior spaces are as rigorously modern as its exterior, and combine cool black, white, and grey tones with warmer residential materials, including maple flooring and darker wood walls, doors, and ceiling beams. Floor-to-ceiling windows, open plans and glass interior partitions help fill the units with daylight.



Interior of an apartment at In Living Color.

Photo © Alan Karchmer

### In Living Color

"In Living Color" is the nickname of a new apartment building located on an essentially triangular lot at 625 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, a few blocks north and east of Logan Circle and the Washington Convention Center. The 16-unit structure replaces four dilapidated townhouses, making for higher-density use of a site close to the Shaw Metro station. The new units include one- and two-bedroom garden apartments and three-bedroom, two-story units.

In Living Color is among the newest of many modernist buildings in Washington's Mount Vernon Square and Shaw neighborhoods designed over the years by Suzane Reatig, FAIA, the principal of Suzane Reatig Architecture. Many of these projects, including In Living Color, were commissioned by the United House of Prayer for All People, a local church that has helped spearhead the area's revival by acting as the developer for a number of projects that provide well-designed and affordable living units for area residents.

Reatig's work in this part of town was previously surveyed in the Spring 2012 issue of ARCHITECTUREDC (see page 19), which noted that her focus on designing modern, affordable living units recalls the Bauhaus tradition of socially conscious modernist architecture.

The design for In Living Color responds to the project's somewhat complex site, which has a relatively narrow frontage on Rhode Island Avenue and a long side bordering an alley. "The building gently steps up in scale from the lower two- and three-story residences to the taller, denser intersection of 7th Street and Rhode Island Avenue," Reatig said. "The building features a green roof, a courtyard, and a linear garden that creates a buffer for the west-facing

units while also transforming the alley into a safe and pleasant walking path. The long west façade engages the street and speaks fondly to the [modernist design of the new] Watha T. Daniel/Shaw public library building, which is located diagonally from the site."

Like the Reatig-designed apartment building at 623 M Street, NW, that was featured in the Spring 2012 article on her work, the exterior of In Living Color incorporates brightly colored panels to help activate the design. "The bold exterior colors reflect the vibrant culture of the neighborhood," Reatig noted. "Located close to both multiple modes of transportation and nightlife and retail businesses, the building contributes a cheerful facade to the busy street."

The building's inside, however, is another story. "The modest interior palette gives a feeling of serenity, in contrast to the bold exterior of the building," Reatig said. "Loft spaces and polished concrete floors provide a gallery-like feel—a blank slate primed for life's color." The building, she said, offers "large units with multiple exposures for light and cross-ventilation that allow nature into the building. Floor-to-ceiling windows are operable and equipped with interior solar shades. Rather than focusing on amenities used only some of the time, the design promotes the extraordinary size of the unit as a building amenity."

"Private balconies, peripheral park space, and courtyards help bring light and nature into the units and promote social interaction amongst neighbors," Reatig added. Features for sustainable (and economical) living include extensive use of natural daylighting, operable, double-pane windows, Energy Star-rated appliances, and water-saving plumbing fixtures.







# Unfold the possibilities of movable glass walls.

Add a touch of luxury to your custom home projects with Monarch by Hufcor® movable glass walls. Monarch exterior folding glass walls and "lift and slide" doors create a light-filled, climatecontrolled space that combines indoor comfort with outdoor living, all designed to your client's lifestyle.

A true metamorphosis in product features and benefits - Monarch by Hufcor® panels are weather-resistant, easy-to-move and offer new taller and wider door sizes, thicker frames, faux wood powder coats and automated bug screens.

All backed by Hufcor's world-class service and local distributor support. For DC area assistance, call Hufcor Potomac at 301-483-4515 or visit hufcor.com/monarch to learn "10 Reasons Why Hufcor."

### HUFCOR

WORLD LEADER IN FLEXIBLE SPACE MANAGEMENT

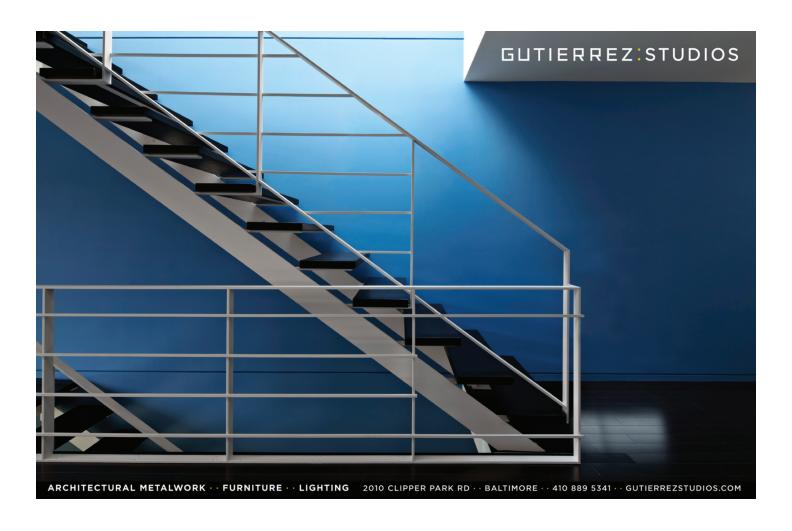
2101 Kennedy Rd. | Janesville WI USA 53545 800-542-2371 ext. 214 | www.hufcor.com



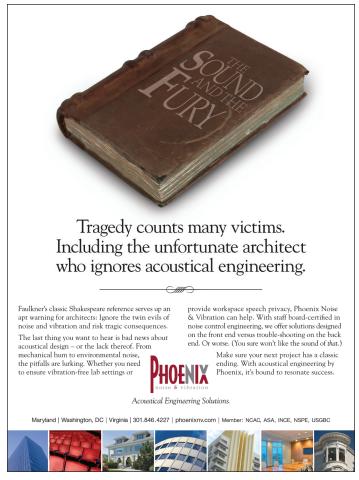


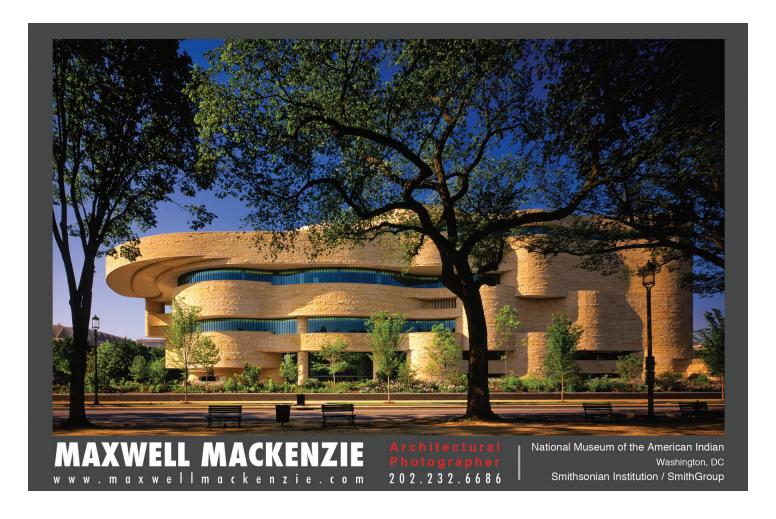














# Exceptional properties.

# Sophisticated solutions.

Jones Lang LaSalle's project management services for luxury properties

As the premier provider of commercial real estate services, Jones Lang LaSalle offers the professional management of the design and construction process for your luxury property. Our clients benefit from the same best practices that we use for *Fortune 500* clients across the region and around the country. JLL's Project and Development Services team provides custom solutions and peace of mind throughout each phase of the project. Our results prove it.



Planning

Cost control

Schedule adherence

Design and construction oversight

Chris Molivadas Managing Director Project and Development Services Heather Bristol
Executive Vice President
Luxury Properties



Real value in a changing world

# A Creative Collaboration



Photo: Bob Narod

### Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath

in collaboration with Hamilton Snowber Architects

"Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen and Bath has always worked with us as a team in developing solutions that are unique to each project's particular needs and vision. With a broad variety of cabinet lines, the JGKB designers are able to create projects that are extremely customized, but also fit a range of budgets."

- Chris Snowber, Principal, Hamilton Snowber Architects





### Houses Amidst the Trees

by G. Martin Moeller, Jr., Assoc. AIA

Imagine a typical suburban house. You may be picturing a relatively simple wood or brick box, or perhaps a livelier composition with gables, bay windows, and a covered porch. If the house you envision occupies a sloping site, it may be nestled into the earth. Odds are, however, that you are thinking of a self-contained structure plopped down on a carpet of grass—an object with only an incidental relationship to its natural setting.

The three projects featured in this article reflect more thoughtful approaches to the siting and composition of suburban houses. Each project employs design strategies based on careful consideration of the site's characteristics and the residents' lifestyles. In each case, the result is a house that uniquely engages the surrounding landscape.

Project: Gresser Johnson House, Silver Spring, Maryland

Architects: McInturff Architects; Mark McInturff, FAIA, and Peter Noonan, AIA, project team

Contractor: **WES Construction** 



Living and dining areas.



Photo © Julia Heine/ McInturff Architects



Carport, with pool and deck in the foreground. Note the ribbed, rusted steel walls, which partially enclose the courtyard.



Dining and living areas, with the "Basket" on the upper level.

Photo © Julia Heine/ McInturff Architects



Exterior view of the new wing containing the principal living spaces.

Photo © Julia Heine/ McInturff Architects

### The Garden in the Woods

Neighbors can be so troublesome: dropping by unexpectedly, trampling your lawn, eating your flowers. For the two avid gardeners who own this property, the problematic neighbors in question were deer, which sometimes wandered into the yard from an adjacent swath of parkland. When the owners hired Mark McInturff, FAIA, of McInturff Architects, to design a substantial addition to their small house, they also asked him to provide a deer-proof garden without compromising their views of the surrounding forest.

McInturff and his colleague Peter Noonan, AIA, proposed adding two asymmetrical wings—slightly splayed in plan—to the rear of the existing, blocky house, thus forming a partially enclosed courtyard. The original house is now mostly devoted to bedrooms, along with a spacious studio for one of the owners, who is an artist and arts educator. The larger of the two new wings contains the principal living, cooking, and dining spaces, and is connected to the original structure by a 45-foot-long

corridor that serves as a gallery for the couple's growing collection of paintings. The smaller wing consists of a new carport and storage shed. A low wall of horizontally ribbed steel, intentionally rusted to yield a tapestry of earthy hues, completes the courtyard enclosure and prevents woodland creatures from nibbling on precious plants—or taking an unauthorized dip in the swimming pool.

Both of the new wings have angled roofs that rise toward the forest at the rear of the property. The longer wing culminates in a huge, double-height window wall affording expansive views of the surrounding trees. The pitched roof also creates room for a loft space above the main sitting area. Dubbed the "basket" by the architects, the loft has an airy, open feel, with minimalist railings and a slanted screen with slats of Douglas fir overlooking the dining area. Across from the dining area is a screened porch that projects into the courtyard.

By adding splayed wings and a courtyard defined in part by unobtrusive, earth-toned walls, the architects transformed a hermetic, inwardly focused house into one that actively but gently embraces its verdant site.



Photo © Julia Heine/ McInturff Architects



# The Harkavy Residence, with the master bedroom wing at left and main living areas at right. Note the butterfly-shaped roof, which Photo © Hoachlander Davis slopes downward toward the right.

### The Butterfly in the Woods

Peering down the long, straight driveway to this house on a wooded site in suburban Maryland, the passing motorist sees neither a grandiose entryway nor a utilitarian garage door—just glimpses of low, concrete block walls with more trees beyond. The residence itself is offset from the axis of the driveway and nestled among the trees. Like the house described in the previous section, this one is adjacent to a lush park—a situation that guided many essential design decisions by architect Robert M. Gurney, FAIA.

The house is composed of three distinct volumes, each with its own characteristic geometry and material palette. Closest to the road is a shed-like form that contains the garage, service spaces, and a bedroom on the second floor. It is clad in corrugated Galvalume, a brand of steel sheeting coated in an aluminum-zinc alloy. On the side of the house opposite the entry is the principal bedroom suite, occupying a flat-roofed wing sheathed in Cor-ten steel, which rusts in a controlled manner to assume a coppery color.

The primary volume, which includes the living, dining, and cooking spaces on the first floor and two small offices above, is clad in wood siding and capped by an inverted gable, or butterfly roof. The sharp upward angles of the roof not only allow plenty of sunlight to reach the interior during the winter, but also afford occupants full views of the tall trees that populate the site. At the same time, the roof's broad overhangs block unwanted summer sun while providing a sense of shelter. In addition to the obvious slope of its two "wings," the butterfly roof has a lateral slope (somewhat evident in the photo at left), which serves to funnel rainwater to a cistern and visually animates the architectural composition.

The low walls visible from the road are elements of a choreographed entry sequence that mediates between the public thoroughfare and the private realm of the house. After emerging from their cars, visitors make a series of 90 degree turns as they ascend to the porch, enter the vestibule, and then pivot to face the main dining area, behind which is a broad window wall affording sylvan views. Turning again, they may enter the main living area, a double-height space with even more glass punctuated by a concrete block chimney.

Gurney notes that the house provides "a place to witness trees changing colors [or] fog rolling in from the not-too-distant Potomac River." Through sensitive siting, carefully planned circulation patterns, ample windows, and dramatically flared rooflines, the architect created a house in which the occupants are the audience and nature provides the show.

### A Portal to the Woods

The names given to suburban neighborhoods are often more fanciful than accurate, but in the case of Mohican Hills in Bethesda, the area is hilly as advertised. The site for this project, in fact, slopes downward from the street—gradually at first, but then much more precipitously beginning roughly at the rear building line. Given the topography, constructing a large rear deck or porch—the sort of amenity one might expect to see in a neighborhood such as this—would have been awkward.

The setting inspired architect **David Jameson**, **FAIA**, to rethink several fundamental assumptions about suburban houses. He began, in effect, by moving the porch from the back yard to the top of the house, where it is protected by a roof finished in rusted steel (a material that figures prominently in all three projects featured in this article). On either side of the house, the roof bends 90 degrees to become a wall. This weathered steel frame, when viewed from the street, is reminiscent of a wicket—a conceptual portal to the landscape beyond the house.

Designed for a single client, the house is relatively small, with about 1,850 square feet of enclosed space. Most of the interior space is on the main floor, which includes an open living/dining area, a kitchen, and the only bedroom. Above the living area is an extraordinary architectural volume—in effect, a four-sided clerestory window, a full story tall, with no mullions. If the roof deck is the "porch," then this glass cage is rather like a bay window projecting into the porch, albeit one that extends upward rather than outward.

The small second floor contains an office that also serves as a "womb space," according to Jameson, for times when the owner may want a cozier environment than that of the open-plan living area. Because this is the most private area of the house, Jameson downplayed the staircase leading to the upper level. In lieu of a structural tour de force, he treated the staircase more like a wall sculpture, with thin vertical rods supporting simple, open steps. The exterior of the office element is sheathed in wood that was deliberately charred using a technique similar to the Japanese shou-sugi-ban, in which the surface of the wood is burned to form a protective coating.

Like many of Jameson's projects, this house embraces and celebrates certain architectural ambiguities. Junctures between interior and exterior space are not always immediately understandable, for instance, and the form of the "wicket" inherently gives the house two "fronts" of more-or-less equal importance. Not surprisingly, Jameson is fully conscious of the dualities in his work. "Janus is my favorite Roman god," he admits. "You always have to look both ways."

Project: Dahlonega Residence, Bethesda, Maryland

Architect: **David Jameson Architect**; David Jameson, FAIA, and Alex Stitt, project team

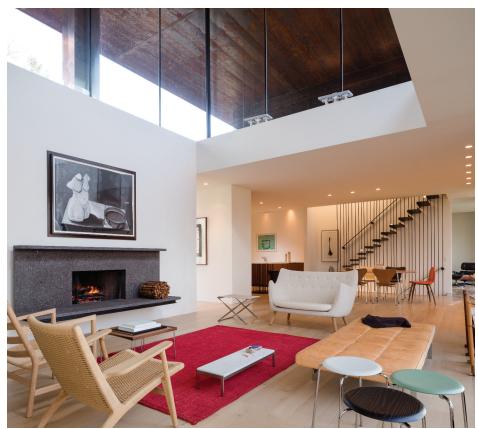
Contractor: Owner



Street façade of the Dahlonega Residence. Note the charred-wood finish on the second floor block at left, and the four-sided, all-glass clerestory above the main living area at right.

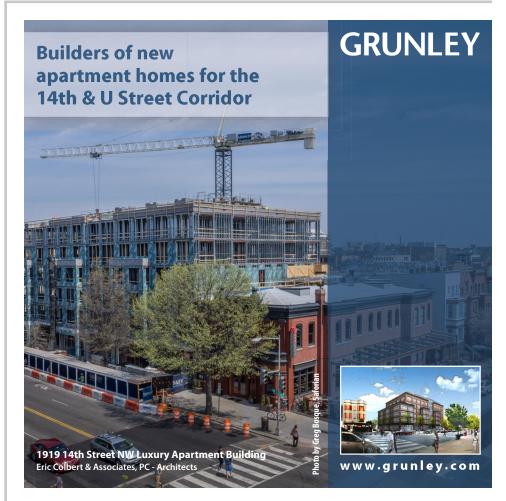


Photo © Paul Warchol



Main living area, open to the all-glass clerestory above.

Photo © Paul Warchol





#### $\mathsf{G}\ \mathsf{L}\ \mathsf{A}\ \mathsf{S}\ \mathsf{S}\ \mathsf{C}\ \mathsf{O}\ \mathsf{N}\ \mathsf{S}\ \mathsf{T}\ \mathsf{R}\ \mathsf{U}\ \mathsf{C}\ \mathsf{T}\ \mathsf{I}\ \mathsf{O}\ \mathsf{N}$



Wnuk Spurlock Architecture Photography: Gordon Beall Graphic Design: Jay Young Gerard





# AWARD WINNING FINE EARTH LANDSCAPE DESIGN / INSTALL











#### SERVING THE METROPOLITAN AREA FOR OVER 30 YEARS

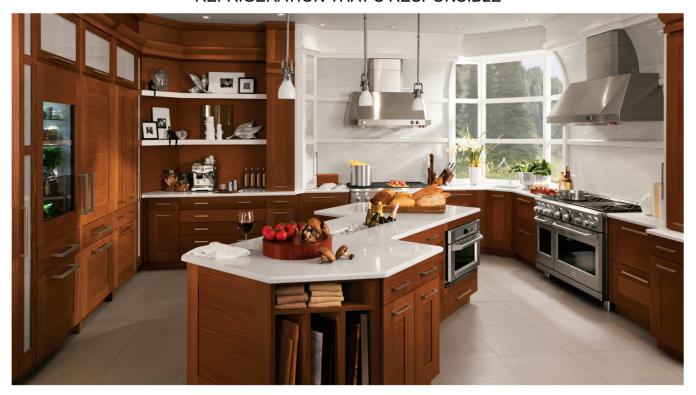
Professional Landscape Design Beautiful Plantings Patios, Terraces and Walkways Masonry and Wood Walls Wood Decks and Arbors Ponds and Waterfalls

DC/MD/VA 301-983-0800 WWW.FINEEARTH.COM

Licensed Bonded Insured

#### **Dad's Discount Appliance Distributors**

#### REFRIGERATION THAT'S RESPONSIBLE



Monogram 30" fully integrated refrigerators are the first in the U.S. to use the new R600a refrigerant, which has a lower global warming impact than common refrigerants in the industry. These refrigerators are also engineered with cyclopentane insulation, a high-performance foam material that replaces the widely used hydrofluorocarbon fillers that have been linked to global warming.





301-937-0222 1-888-238-1858 www.dadsappliance.com Authorized Monogram Dealer



### Building on History

by Steven K. Dickens, AIA, LEED AP

The "Federal" style has been popular for American houses for so long that it's easy to forget its origins in the years when "America" was still new, the idea of a democracy novel and unproven, and the appropriate architectural expression for the young country very much undecided. Clay Hill, near Millwood, Virginia, is the real thing—a Federal-style house built in 1816. Despite the decades (almost *centuries*) since its original construction, the core house remained generally intact, if somewhat primitive by modern standards. A series of additions provided for modern needs, but they were awkward and architecturally uninspired. The owners, John Staelin and the noted jewelry designer Elizabeth Locke, already lived in the house. They wanted to restore and renovate, improving the provision of basic amenities while adding on to provide informal living spaces and a modern kitchen.

As is typically the case with authentic older houses, the original structure, though grand for its era, is fairly modest by the standards of today's suburban McMansions, whose façades often mimic those of houses like Clay Hill. This house's core is essentially just

New sitting room, which connects the kitchen to the original house, with new hall at left background.

Photo © Gordon Beall

six rooms, three per floor, arranged around a front "hall" and a rear "stair hall." These rooms are generously sized and notable for their fine proportions and thoughtful configurations. But the modern country house, of course, needs more than six rooms, especially when none of the six make sense for a modern kitchen.

The solution, as conceived by **Andrew Lewis, AIA**, of **Neumann Lewis Buchanan Architects**, was driven by historical precedents for a kitchen in a house of Clay Hill's era: it would be an outbuilding, separate from the main house, an arrangement especially important in the summer to keep the heat away from living quarters. Lewis designed a 2,500-square-foot addition suggestive of a "summer kitchen" pavilion with a covered connection to the main house, which would have been enclosed over the years. The additions are deferential to the original house, maintaining a low profile and clad in contrasting materials. The main house is smooth stucco, the "summer kitchen" is fieldstone, and the connector is wood siding.



Front of Clay Hill, with the new kitchen at left and the original house at right.

Photo © Gordon Beall

Inside and out, the addition follows the lead of the original. Both are distinguished by painstakingly designed and expertly executed details, carefully studied alignments and proportions, and the subtle incorporation of modern necessities.

This approach extends to the landscape. Like any country house worth its salt, Clay Hill has grounds and gardens, even a springhouse. Neumann Lewis Buchanan oversaw the creation of a parterre garden and straight-from-Kew-Gardens conservatory, both on axis with the main house at the rear. On the side with the kitchen addition is a new freestanding garage, treated as a small horse-country-style barn, complete with cupola, which helps frame the parterre gardens. At the other side of the house is a new



New kitchen/breakfast room wing.

Photo © Gordon Beall

screened porch, which leads to a fish pond set amid a grass-covered "plinth." The compound occupies an elevated part of the rolling Hunt Country site, affording views of the estate and surrounding countryside.

Project: Clay Hill, Millwood, Virginia

Architects: Neumann Lewis Buchanan Architects; Andrew Lewis, AIA;

Gary Lofdahl, AIA, project architect Contractor: **Maidstone Construction** Structural Engineer: **Alicia McCormick** Garden Designer: **Sue Bowman** 

Interior Designers: Jean Perin (existing portions of structure);

Alison Martin (new portions of structure)







#### Maidstone congratulates

#### Neumann Lewis Buchanon,

our Partners at Clay Hill Farm on being recognized as a 2013 *Washingtonian* 

#### Residential Design Award Winner.

Maidstone has been creating elegant, livable homes and equine facilities in Loudoun, Fauquier, Clarke and Rappahannock Counties in Virginia Hunt Country for over 30 years.

Over that time we have built an unmatched reputation for quality, expertise, integrity and customer satisfaction.

We invite you to view our portfolio of recent projects at www.maidstoneconstruction.com

#### MAIDSTONE CONSTRUCTION LLC

P.O. Box 1538 | Middleburg, VA 20118 info@maidstoneconstruction.com | 703-777-6198

Contact us today if you'd like to start a conversation about a new project.



# LEPAGE Custom Windows & Doors

Supplied by TW Perry

Lepage custom windows and doors offer distinctive charm and innovative details that
"off-the-rack" window and door manufacturers can't provide. Visit a TW Perry location
near you and view beautiful Lepage Windows & Doors, plus Custom Doors & Millwork
by TW Perry.

www.lepagemillwork.com



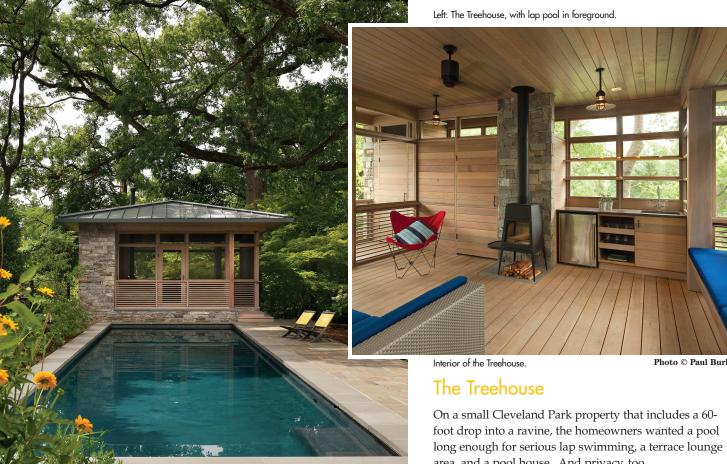
TW Perry's architectural consulting staff have factory trained expertise, many years of industry knowledge and experience; are considered a valued resource to the professional and their clientele in the product selection process. Contact our consultant today to help you on your next project: Ken Clark kclark@twperry.com 240.687.4782

Please visit our website www.twperry.com for a full listing of AIA continuing education opportunities.

**BALTIMORE, MD** 410.350.0750 - **CHEVY CHASE, MD** 301.652.2600 **GAITHERSBURG, MD** 301.840.9600 - **LEESBURG, VA** 703.777.3030 **SPRINGFIELD, VA** 703.451.6500 www.twpertry.com







area, and a pool house. And privacy, too.

Cunningham | Quill Architects, PLLC, was challenged to take advantage of every inch of the lot. "Necessity was the mother of invention on this project," said Maria Cassarella, AIA. "After we demolished a deteriorating garage and crumbling driveway, it could only get better."

Perched at the edge of the ravine, the new screened pavilion appears to defy gravity as it extends out into thin air. It is, in fact, securely supported by slender columns, which are well concealed by natural landscaping. The pool house faces the turn-of-the-century bungalow residence at the far end of the pool and both structures share the same palette of materials and deep-eaved rooflines. The pool house is carefully sited to block the view of apartment building rooftops below and provides leafy, unexpected seclusion in an essentially urban setting. The design celebrates the visual power of trees.

Constructed as a simple platform structure and clad in stained cedar and split bluestone, the pool house serves as a bridge between the towering trees of the ravine and the meticulously tended gardens and pool hardscape. Inside, the architects lined up a small kitchenette, a cedarlined shower, and wood burning stove along the east side of the structure to avoid potentially intrusive views.

The design and setting conjure up a variety of summer fantasies: tree house, camp cabin, or, for architect Cassarella, "beach house." For the Washingtonian Awards jurors, the project represented an elegant solution to a challenging site and program.

### Creating Private Oases

by Denise Liebowitz

Kidney-shaped pools, tropical tiki bars, and naughty hot tubs used to be the stuff of backyard summer fun. Today, homeowners seek efficient lap lanes for full-body workouts and quiet retreats that offer sanctuary from hyper-busy lives. The awards jurors gave the winning nod to two pool pavilions, which, though artful siting, simple geometry, and clear function, anchor serene landscapes and gracefully connect the built environment to the natural world.

**Project:** The Treehouse, Washington, DC

Architects: Cunningham | Quill Architects; Ralph Cunningham, FAIA,

and Maria Casarella, AIA Contractor: The Ley Group

Landscape Architect: Graham Landscape Architecture



Photo © Maxwell MacKenzie

Nevis Pool and Garden Pavilion.

Photo © Maxwell MacKenzie

#### Nevis Pool and Garden Pavilion

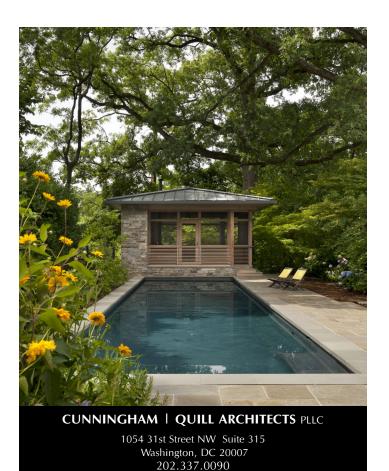
"This was really a lovely lot to work with," recalled **Robert Gurney**, **FAIA**, speaking of a suburban property in the Bannockburn neighborhood of Bethesda, Maryland. "It has this wonderful view across manicured lawns and garden to the pool and beyond to the woodlands." Gurney designed a new swimming pool and pavilion, along with stone walls, terraces, and paths, to create a serene and integrated landscape for a 1960s/'70s-era modern house. The project reflects the architect's signature style of crisp geometry, bold forms, and a palette of materials that most often includes glass, steel, and stone.

The straight lines of the contemporary pool house stand as a dramatic foil to the lush backdrop of natural foliage. Walls of

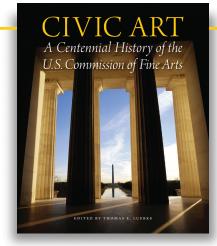
glass, dry-stacked slate, and mahogany support a low-pitched roof of matte-finished stainless steel. The horizontality of the pavilion is punctuated by a soaring stone chimney, and five steel-framed glass pivoting doors and frameless glass walls enclose the interior space. The hard-edged clarity and transparency of the structure make it a powerful transition point between the tended lawn, gardens, walkways, and pool and the exuberantly natural landscape beyond. "I really designed the pavilion to relate to its natural setting in the woods," explained the architect.

The minimalist interior contains a compact, stainless steel kitchen with stool seating that enjoys views out to the pool through a precisely placed window. A lounge area is anchored by a Rumford fireplace. Rumford fireplaces were common in America about the time when Thomas Jefferson was installing them at Monticello. "Rumford fireplaces are tall and shallow and give off more heat," explained Gurney. "And I like their proportions." The heated bluestone flooring and the Douglas fir ceiling create a warm space and make it inviting year-round. A bathroom and outdoor shower are located at the rear of the pavilion behind the solid mahogany wall.

The careful interplay of solid and transparent, vertical and horizontal, and structured and natural results in a cohesive landscape that is calm and welcoming. "For me, small projects are fun," noted Gurney. "Some architects don't want to touch them; I love doing them."



www.cunninghamquill.com



A richly illustrated volume documenting a century of efforts to beautify the nation's capital

#### Civic Art: A Centennial History of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

provides many glimpses of the fractious, inspired, and often messy process that defines democracy in action in Washington, as revealed in the work of the commission since 1910.

\$85 jacketed hardcover, 636 pp., 424 color & 495 black-and-white illus., 10"X12" format, ISBN 978-0-16-089702-3 http://www.umass.edu/umpress/title/civic-art

#### To place orders:

University of Massachusetts Press, Amazon, or Barnes & Noble.

#### **ROOFING & HISTORIC RESTORATION SPECIALISTS**

## Is Your Roof History?

Whether it's The Old Post Office, The National Cathedral or your home, Wagner Roofing has a 98 year-long history of quality service.

- Copper
- Ornamental Metal
- Slate & Tile
- Modified Bitumen & EPDM

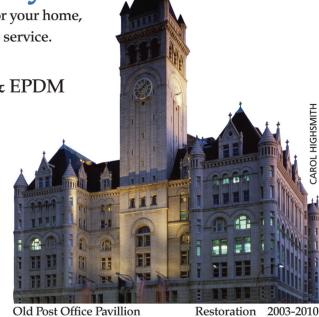
#### WAGNER **ROOFING**

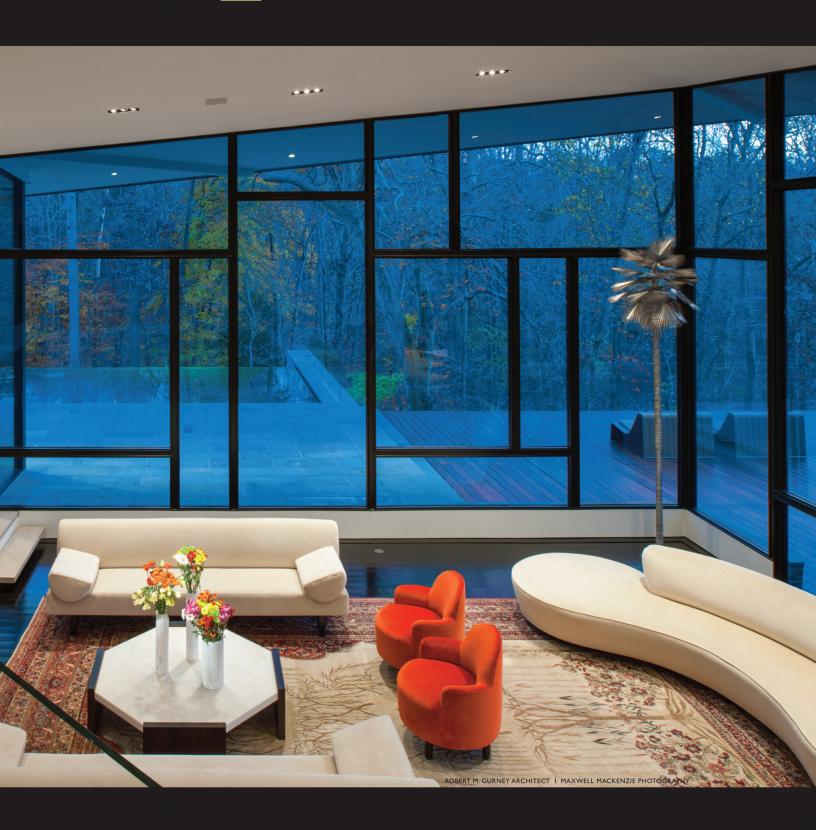
"Between Washington and the Weather"

**Since 1914** 



(301) 927-9030 wagnerroofing.com





celebrating 35 years of award-winning construction





Main living area of the Chesapeake Bay House.

Photo © Julia Heine/McInturff Architects

#### Chesapeake Bay House

"There is a pool on top." With this punchy sentence, architect Mark McInturff, FAIA, introduces the weekend house he built for himself on a quiet Eastern Shore cove, in the middle of the town of Neavitt, Maryland. The pool "weighs as much as seven Toyota Priuses," McInturff further informs us, both verbally and graphically, via a whimsical architectural drawing (see above left).

The pool is mentioned first not only because its location is unexpected, but also because it serves as a perfect introduction to the forces that molded this house, McInturff's light-hearted design approach, and the fantastical quality of the end result.

To protect the Chesapeake Bay, most of the Eastern Shore has very strict development guidelines. In this case, the allowed footprint of everything to be constructed—house, decks, and pool—was restricted to the area covered by a long-gone previous house, which was "about the size of a double-wide trailer," McInturff wryly notes. Unable to spread horizontally, the house had to go vertical in order to accommodate all the space McInturff desired. The trailer image, transformed into high design, seems to have taken root: the house is clearly articulated as a series of boxes stacked upon each other.

The structural loads imposed by the rooftop pool, coupled with the house's vertical configuration, mandated a steel frame. The steel elements, painted white, are exposed on the interior and become integral to the layout, separating the living, dining, and kitchen spaces

of the main floor. They also lend an obvious yet subtle nautical flair to the house, particularly at either end of the main floor where the round hub of the cross-bracing is located directly in front of a porthole-type window.

The first floor, which basically matches the footprint of the previous house, contains the main living spaces in an open plan. Due to the building restrictions, this floor could not extend across into the landscape to create outdoor living spaces. McInturff's solution was to line the entire water-facing wall with sliding doors so that the entire room becomes a porch in pleasant weather. The second and third floors have one bedroom suite each and generous roof decks. A stair from the third floor roof deck leads to the pool on top.

The exterior is clad in white cedar shingles. Each floor's "box" is marked by a distinct width of shingle, providing subtle variation and interest. Stainless steel railings, done in the horizontal style of boats, line practically every top edge. Viewed from the water, each floor's "box" is separately articulated; the house reads as a well-composed but informal jumble of glass and railings, with just small areas covered by shingles. In contrast, the street façade is mostly shingles, with only small areas of glass and limited railings, and the "boxes" appear to merge into an upsidedown T shape. The leg of the inverted T marks the location of the stairs, and becomes a striking vertical tower. The height of the tower is extended by the careful placement of the lightning rod, another example of a utilitarian necessity transformed into a significant compositional element.



#### North Country Lake House

Like McInturff's Chesapeake Bay House, the North Country Lake House, by architect **Richard Williams**, **FAIA**, employs a spare vocabulary in which the alternation of glass and solid is the primary means of architectural articulation. Both are modest-size houses, and both owe their existence to the pleasures of weekends and vacations on the water. Moreover, in both cases, the water (conveniently, from the perspective of solar control for large areas of glazing) is to the south. But if McInturff's greatest challenge was a restrictive site, Williams' was a restrictive program. "The challenge," he writes, "was to reduce the program to the bare essentials."

The lake in this case is Lake Ontario; the site is a meadow sloping gradually down to a bluff; the location is in wine country two hours east of Toronto. The clients are a pair of writers who

have three grown children and split their time between Washington and Toronto. In the cities, their residences are big and their lives busy. This house is meant as a retreat, a place that encourages rest, regrouping, and relaxation for weekends, and accommodates extended working vacations in the summer. For these clients, the "bare essential" program is approximately that of a generous two-bedroom apartment with roof terrace: a master bedroom suite, a study/office that doubles as a guest room, and a living/dining/kitchen space that opens to a large deck.

The programmatic elements form the basis for the exterior massing and material choices. The bedrooms and living/dining space are contained in a rectangular volume of full-height glass and horizontal wood siding painted dark gray. At the living/dining area, the glass dominates, with the siding appearing on a parapet over walls of glazing. At the bedrooms, the siding dominates,

with punched windows. The kitchen is expressed with a separate rectangular volume, clad in vertical coppercolored metal siding. The metal reappears at the main entrance.

The interiors have a similar spare-but-targeted use of materials. Bleached maple strip flooring marks the exterior wall and dropped ceiling at the entrance and kitchen, running along the north side of the house. This provides contrast to the white walls and higher ceilings in the living/dining area and bedrooms.

The 1,500-square-foot house is designed for simple living, with the flexibility to accommodate the core users—the client couple—but also friends and family. For example, instead of a conventional full hall bathroom, Williams provided two small rooms. One has a toilet and sink, the other—entirely separate—has a shower and sink. This allows more users at a time than a full bath would. The open, generously scaled living/dining room assures family togetherness, but doesn't feel empty when there aren't guests.

Williams kept the house simple, but, via small manipulations of the program, exterior massing and materials, and interior finishes and ceiling heights, he provided for a richness of experience. The awards jury took particular note of the project's modest size and character. "This house," said juror Harry Kendall, AIA, "shows that you do not have to throw money at something to make a strong piece of architecture."



Main living space, with kitchen at right.

Photo © Tom Arban Photography



Exterior view of the North Lake Country House, with main entrance at center.

Photo © Tom Arban Photography

**Project:** North Country Lake House,

Prince Edward County, Ontario, Canad

Architect: Richard Williams, FAIA

Contractor: Peter Knudsen Construction, Limited Interior Designers: Drummond La Traverse Interior Design









#### Pilkington **MirroView**™

Giving a new look to your television display and video screens, Pilkington MirroView™ looks like a normal mirror when the screen is turned 'off'. When the screen is turned 'on', the image shows through the mirror for an unobstructed view of the television display beneath. Ideal for commerical and residential applications, Pilkington MirroView™ gives displays a modern, transitional look.

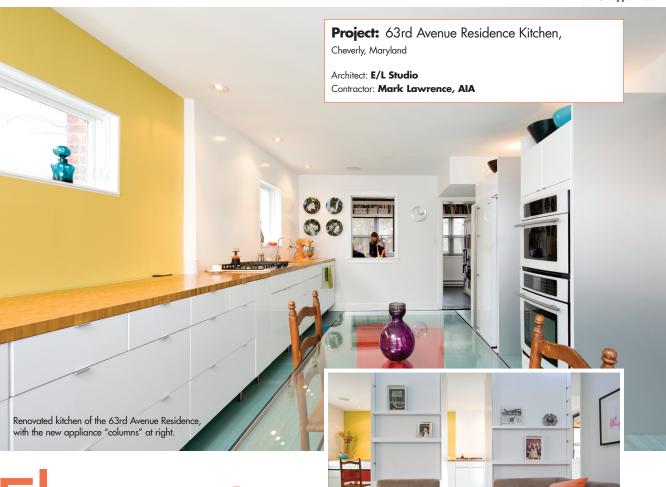




Smart Home and Office Control right at your fingertips. Control Home or Office Lighting, Audio/Video, Shades, HVAC, Security and more right from your iPad®, from anywhere in the world. Now that's Smart!

SmartTouchUSA.com 301 340 7200

Savant authorized



# Elements:

View from the living room to the kitchen.

Photo © Pepper Watkins

### The Parts that Make the Whole

by Denise Liebowitz

This year, for the first time, the Residential Design Awards program included separate categories intended to recognize specific elements of larger projects. The judges selected one project each in the Kitchen/Bath category and the Details category for awards. Coincidentally, both were designed by the firm **E/L Studio**.

#### In Grandma's Kitchen

"It was my grandparents' house; my father grew up here; and when I was a kid I had dinner here every Thursday night," recalled **Mark Lawrence**, **AIA**, principal of E/L Studio, referring to a small, vintage 1940s house in Cheverly, Maryland. When he bought the home from his father, Lawrence knew he wanted to give it new life for himself and his wife.

Removal of the non-load-bearing wall between the kitchen and dining room was the obvious and relatively easy first step in opening up the ground-floor rooms. But dealing with the center load-bearing wall separating the kitchen from the living room was more of a challenge. In the original kitchen, the refrigerator, stove, and sink lined up along the exterior wall, leaving little space for countertops.

Lawrence solved the twin problems of lack of kitchen work space and the separation of kitchen and living room in one deft move: relocating the refrigerator, storage pantry, and ovens to the opposite wall. These large elements now form load-bearing "columns" with the spaces between them allowing unencumbered flow to the adjacent living room. A new, long run of budget-friendly bamboo butcher block counters on the opposite side of the extended kitchen/dining area offers ample workspace.

The reconfigured space pulls natural light into the north-facing living room, while the kitchen columns, wrapped in aluminum laminated panels, reflect morning and afternoon sun. In the living room, the reverse sides of the columns provide dramatic feature spaces for picture rails and uplighting. By eliminating the upper kitchen cabinetry, Lawrence accentuated the long, linear stretch

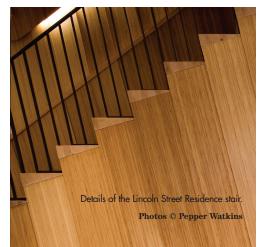




New staircase at the Lincoln Street Residence.

Photo © Pepper Watkins





along one side of the kitchen while a burst of yellow on the dining room wall subtly demarcates the eating area. The clean line of the white lower cabinetry is accented by the bold flourish of a red table.

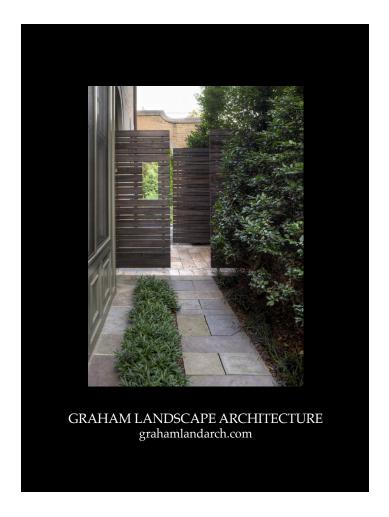
But it's the blue floor that is the real surprise in this renovation. "The floors [in the living and dining room] were in great shape," the architect said. "My grandfather used to wax them like every month and they were never polyurethaned. I planned to replace the old kitchen linoleum with tile, but when I pulled up the linoleum, I was surprised to find good pine subflooring." Of course, the grain and color of the knotty yellow pine of the kitchen floor did not remotely match the red oak of the rest of the flooring in the house. "I didn't want to hide the differences, but I did want the entire space to have a sense of continuity." It was about that time that Lawrence saw turquoise blue in his future. "When my father first visited the house when it was finished, he really liked almost everything, but it did take him some time to wrap his head around the blue floors; but then he loved those, too."

#### A Heavenly Stairway

The pitched roof with its 45-degree angle in this 1970s-era modern house rendered much of the second floor and mezzanine level unusable. The goal of the renovation was to add livable square footage with only limited expansion of the building envelope. Mark Lawrence, AIA, and Elizabeth Emerson, AIA, E/L Studio's other principal, responded to the challenge by "popping up" a portion of the existing roof to create space for an expanded master suite with a new bath and dressing area on the second floor. Existing partitions and a portion of an interior balcony were removed to draw in natural light and improve flow through the house. A third-floor mezzanine, previously accessible only by ladder, was connected to the rest of the house by a new stair, and in what had been unused eave space on this level, the architects created two new office areas.

The new stair is the star of this renovation. "Stairs can be complicated and architects tend to fixate on them; making beautiful stairs that meet code can be a real challenge," said Lawrence. The home's previous stair featured a completely open riser: "It was beautiful, but it would never meet code today." (Open risers with a height of more than four inches present a child safety hazard and are not legal today.) "Here, we addressed stairway form and function head on." The stair was designed with lightness in mind. A new skylight was installed in the popped-up roof to draw daylight deep into the interior by means of new glass transoms. The oak stair treads are tapered at the edges to reflect the angle of the pop-up roof and to bounce light in the interior.

The broad stretches of light, clean bamboo paneling help make the stair a dramatic and unifying design element in the home and serve a functional purpose as well. "The paneling was a good way to hide the new stringer structure and to integrate the handrail, cove lighting, and return air grills," explained Lawrence.





**Lights of Venice** World of resource for premium Designer Lighting Creations.

Maryland. Venice. Budapest. | 240.994.6336 www.lightsofvenice.com





#### One Supplier: All Your Specialty Glazing Needs

710 W. Ostend Street Baltimore, MD 21230 TF: 800-352-3380 FX: 410-727-1080 www.mdglass.net info@mdglass.net











The industry leader in ceramic fire rated glazing. Only FireLite offers a true distortion free Premium Grade. Available in film faced and laminated safety versions for Cat II safety impact rated applications.



Vivid colors that reflect the subtle interactions of light: New KRYSTAL KOLOURS™ enameled glass brings interior decorative glass applications to vivid, colorful life.



#### Kleppinger Design Group, Inc.







Visit our showroom to see more than 30 kitchen & bath displays. View our website for more inspiration.

Showroom Hours: 9am-5pm Monday - Friday and 10am-1pm Saturday, or by appointment.

2809-A Merrilee Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22031 | phone: 703.208.2208 | KleppingerDesign.com





Architect: www.gardnermohr.com Photographer: www.kenwyner.com

For luxury homeowners — and the architects, designers and custom builders who create their dreams — Loewen is the brand that delivers an unrivaled combination of artisanship, experience, and environmental sensibility in an extensive line of Douglas Fir, FSC Douglas Fir and Mahogany windows and doors.

In addition, the FSC certified Douglas Fir option can assist in earning points in LEED programs.

#### LOEWEN WINDOW CENTER OF BETHESDA

4710 Bethesda Ave. Bethesda, MD 20814 P. 301.215.9195

#### LOEWEN WINDOW CENTER OF MARYLAND

7201 Rolling Mill Road Baltimore, MD 21224 P. 410.561.1700

#### LOEWEN WINDOW CENTER OF ANNAPOLIS

209 Chinquapin Round Rd.Annapolis, MD 21401P. 443.831.4802

Learn more about Loewen's commitment to environmental preservation: www.loewenwindowsofmidatlantic.com/green

Design. Create. Inspire.



## How does a client maintain

the beauty and life of your residential project

after it's built





















Home maintenance for complete peace of mind.

Horizon HouseWorks<sup>™</sup> offers the homeowner a full spectrum of maintenance and repair services to help control the function and appearance of the residential project you've designed. Whether it's a new contemporary home, a condominium or a historic estate, Horizon HouseWorks<sup>™</sup> will provide your clients with the trust that their home, and your vision, will be taken care of 365 days a year.

Utilizing professional expertise and specialized equipment, the HouseWorks<sup>™</sup> team will take care of a homeowners "to do" list including: general maintenance & repairs, seasonal upkeep, special projects such as customized additions or features, interior and exterior painting, home inspections and labor services. No task is too minor, no assignment too difficult.

301. 392. 4922 • info@horizonhouseworks.com www.HorizonHouseWorks.com







#### HAMILTON SNOWBER ARCHITECTS

HAMILTON SNOWBER Architects

www.hamiltonsnowber.com

#### **DIVERSIFIED EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS**









Diversified Educational Systems is the Mid-Atlantic's leading educational and laboratory casework supplier. In addition to casegoods, DES is also able to offer a wide variety of FF&E and technical training equipment.

DES offers turn-key casework and FF&E solutions, including design, specification, MEP coordination, and installation. DES welcomes the opportunity to assist on your next project.



WWW.DES.COM INFO@DES.COM 1-800-409-8641







# Almo Brings You Best-in-Class APPLIANCE BRANDS

Almo brings you the true industry leaders in professional grade home appliances. **Capital Cooking**, **Liebherr Refrigeration**, and **Faber** ventilation: best-in-class manufacturers that provide **Extraordinary Performance at an Uncommon Value**. Each piece is beautifully crafted to satisfy the most astute customer that's seeking exceptional performance without the extraordinary price.

Call for the **Showroom** Nearest You...**800-836-2522** 





Photography by Bryan Becker

**Our** award winning work showcases our detailed craftmanship, appreciation of aesthetics, and sustainable building practices that create healthy, efficient, and beautiful homes. Whether traditional or modern, we understand the details that make good architecture.

To find out more about Rock Creek Builders, please visit our website or contact Thomas Utley RockCreekBuilder.com 202-438-3419

